

Memorandum

The Grand Scenes
of our History



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At the third sitting of the Executive Committee on the 25th September, 1906, I had the honour to submit a memorandum giving a plan for the historical parade or cortege that might be organized in connection with the celebration of the Tercentenary.

The memorandum was referred to the Committee on History and Archæology which has had it several times under consideration.

Since that date, I have had time for serious reflection and have obtained important information which has altered my views as well as the idea I had formed as to such historical cortege.

I had at first thought of having an immense procession of our national and other associations, of groups of historical personages, of officers and soldiers of various periods, with allegorical cars bearing representations of the finest scenes of our history.

During the discussion by the Committee on History and Archæology, I became convinced of the almost insurmountable obstacles to the carrying

out of this plan, especially as regards the allegorical cars which are always difficult to move.

Then the success that has attended the general historical pageants in the open air in England, showed me the greater facility offered by them for the representation of scenes in which many personages take part. In fact, the pageant, instead of being seen merely by the comparatively limited number of curious spectators who line the streets unfolds itself in all its amplitude before the eyes of an immense crowd.

Thus a twofold object can be obtained: the appearance in a procession, as marching groups, of bodies militarily organized with the costumes, uniforms and arms of various periods and afterwards their performance of a part in the grand theatrical representation before an immense audience, where the actors would interpret the dramatic incidents of the period recalling them, with splendid and brilliant realism.

I therefore take up the main ideas of the Memorandum which are already known to you, giving them more ample form, calculated to produce a greater dramatic effect.

I am not versed in the matter but I do not think I am mistaken in saying that with a competent director like Mr. Lascelles ⁽¹⁾ who prepared and

(1) Mr. Lascelles, who was asked by a cablegram from the

directed the great historical performances which have met with such success in England during the past years, aided by an expert artist chosen from the best in France, for the French portion of our representations, we are sure to succeed, provided sufficient zeal, work and money be devoted to the undertaking.

To facilitate the work of the Committee, I have drawn up, subject to what changes it may be deemed advisable to make—a list of the pages of our Annals, from which selection may be made of the most suitable subjects for living pictures which would be real lessons in history.

Out of courtesy and to please our neighbours, some scenes from the history of New-England might be introduced.

First of all I adhere to the project of organizing two special bodies, which I have called :

1° —Men of the Watch (Hommes du guet) (1).

Committee to come over, will leave for Canada on the 6th March and remain until after the celebration, to take charge of the *pageants* etc.

(1) *Watch*.—Troops whose duty it was to watch over the town during the night. The records of the Parliament show that the watch of the city of Paris was then reduced to forty-five men, well paid and who did not even serve (Voltaire *Siecle de Louis XIV*) Chevalier du Guet, (Knight of the Watch). The Commandant of the Archers of the Watch.

2°—Heralds-at-arms (1).

These may be described as follows :

MEN OF THE WATCH

A group of men acting as the police of the city, carrying torches and calling out the hours of the night.

HERALDS-AT-ARMS.

A group of Heralds-at-arms preceded by men of the watch proclaiming in a loud voice and at the sound of the trumpet the announcements and the programme for each day. At night they would have torches, stop at all public places and squares to cry the programme for the following day.

These two groups would also escort official personages on their arrival, take part in all the ceremonies, precede all parades, processions, etc.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. In chronological order, the first figure that presents itself to the

(1) *Heralds-at-arms.* — In olden times these were officers who proclaimed public announcements and performed various duties in connection with public ceremonies. In the middle ages, they were officers who delivered various proclamations and messages. Under the old monarchy, they were officers employed at marriage ceremonies, at the coronation of kings, in peace proclamations etc. They were 28 in number, the first being king-at-arms and called Montjoie St. Denis, from the old war-cry of the French.

imagination of a native of the New-World, is that of the immortal discoverer, Christopher Columbus.

It is true that, strictly speaking, it does not come within the limits of our Canadian annals wherein for us, the place of honour belongs, beyond contradiction, to Jacques Cartier.

But would it not be advisable to devote to the memory of Christopher Columbus a special evening in which our musicians, aided by actors, would, with orchestra, chorus, and appropriate scenery and costumes, perform the master-piece of Félicien David, so long known and appreciated by us ?

THE SAVAGE WORLD. — Having paid this homage to Columbus, we enter upon our history with a scene that has inspired one of our Canadian artists, Mr. Dubé, to paint a striking picture called « The Savage World », representing a North American Indian standing on the bank of our great river and gazing in astonishment at a wooden cross stranded on the beach.

This is the dawn of a new area.

JACQUES CARTIER. — Then comes the grand figure of Jacques Cartier which we shall bring out in a striking manner in some of the following scenes :

Either his arrival at Quebec with his crews ;
Or his wintering at the Cabir-Coubat river, so dramatically related by Mr. Ernest Myrand ;

Or again Jacques Cartier, at the Court of Francis I, relating his voyage and discoveries.

CHAMPLAIN.—Let us now pass on to the chief hero of the Tercentenary celebration, Samuel de Champlain. Let us chose from among the following :

A. Champlain at Port Royal, surrounded by various personages belonging to the order of *Bon-Temps*.

B. Champlain before Henry IV and Sully, receiving his commission ;

C. Champlain landing at Quebec with his crew, from his ship, the *Don de Dieu* ;

D. Champlain before Louis XIII and Richelieu. The formation of the company of the Hundred Associates ;

E. Champlain on his return to Quebec in 1633.

The better to recall the memory of Champlain and to strike the people's admiration, it would perhaps be advisable to build as accurate a model as possible of his vessel, the *Don de Dieu*. That vessel of 120 tons, a reproduction of the old model, with its sails and rigging, its captain and crew wearing the costumes and bearing the arms of the period, might be made to enter the port amid the acclamations of the people and artillery salutes from the citadel and from the men-of-war gathered at Quebec on a fine day during the celebration.

1629-1632.—A scene taken from the history of New England, such as Pocahontas saving the life of captain Smith, the landing of the Pilgrims from the May-Flower, or some other one.

THE HEROIC TIMES OF OUR HISTORY.—The soldier-settler, a tableau: a log-hut on the edge of the forest, with a woman and children. The father sowing in the clearing, his gun slung over his shoulders. Hidden in ambush in the brushwood, an Indian armed to the teeth.

THE FOUNDERS AND DEFENDERS OF MONTREAL.—De Maisonneuve, Lambert, Closse, Le Moyne, Mother Primot, Mademoiselle Mance.

THE HEROES OF LONG-SAULT.—Dollard and his comrades.

MONSEIGNEUR DE LAVAL AND THE MARQUIS DE TRACY.—Mgr de Laval receiving the Marquis de Tracy with his 24 guards, 6 pages, 6 lackeys and a guard from the Carignan Salières regiment.

1670-71—TALON, making Gay de Lusson take possession of the Western country in the King's name, in the presence of 14 chiefs of Indian tribes assembled at Sault Ste Marie.

1690.—THE CANADIAN MILITIA of d'Iberville, Robineau, Becancour and other leaders.

HISTORICAL SCENES IN NEW ENGLAND.
Corlaer aiding Father Jacques to escape.

FRONTENAC.—Surrounded by his Council his Lieutenants, soldiers and militia, together with some Indian allies, replying to the summons delivered by Phipps' envoy.

INDIANS.—Groups of friendly and hostile Indians : Hurons, Algonquins, etc.

1755.—THE ACADIANS.—Evangeline in the midst of the family of the notary LeBlanc, or some other scene from Longfellow.

1759.—MONTCALM and his staff, officers and soldiers of the regiments of La Sarre, Langueduc, Bearn, Guienne, Royal-Roussillon, of the Marine, Militia, Indian allies.

1759.—WOLFE and his staff, officers and detachments of his regiments.

1759.—THE NATIONAL DEFENCE. Scenes from the camp at Beauport, old men of 80 and children of 12, asking for arms to fight.

1760.—LEVIS and his comrades in-arms, officers and soldiers.

Another scene of national defence: women, old men and children helping to convey cannon and

food and ammunition waggons through the swamp of la Suète.

1760.—MURRAY and his companions in-arms, officers and soldiers.

1775.—GUY CARLETON and the defenders of Quebec.

I stop at Carleton, not venturing to go beyond 1775 unless we wish to close with 1812 and the glorious page of Chateauguay.

THE DUKE OF KENT.—Out of courtesy to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, a scene might be added connected with the residence in Quebec of H. R. H. the Duke of Kent, grandfather of His Majesty the King : perhaps a scene from a ball or levee at Chateau St. Louis.

1792.—A session of the first Canadian Parliament.

A SCENE FROM THE WAR of 1812.—Brock and De Salaberry leaving Quebec for the frontier.

There might perhaps be introduced in the pageants, as *tableaux vivants*, or in the procession as allegorical cars, groups, artistically made up, representing the various nationalities of the Provinces of the Canadian Confederation with the national attributes, or attributes taken from their special sources of wealth.

NATIONAL CARS.—St. George.
St. Andrew.
St. Patrick.
St. John the Baptist.

THE PROVINCES OF THE DOMINION.—
Allegorical cars with attributes :

ONTARIO

NEW BRUNSWICK

NOVA SCOTIA

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MANITOBA

ALBERTA

SASKATCHEWAN & YUKON

In the procession there might also be *tableaux vivants* representing :

A group of the Canadian founders of American cities :

The Canadian discoverers and explorers of the New World.

The missionaries and martyrs :

There would be also animated scenes which might be reproduced either in the *pageants*, as *tableaux*, or in marching groups in the procession, which would be characteristic of our national customs and dress :

A numerous French-Canadian family with an interior scene, spinning wheels, looms, etc :

Or again a group of men threshing grain with flails, or hay-making ; a group of women beating flax or hemp :

A group of ship-carpenters with a reduced model of a ship in course of construction.

A group of wood-choppers, lumbermen or raftsmen in their picturesque costumes.

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The Tercentenary Committee reserve to themselves the exclusive control of the making up of the plans of allegorical cars, the choice of historical personages, costumes, arms, insignia, banners, etc., of the marching groups, and no car, historical personage or marching group can figure in the processions, parades, demonstrations or ceremonies during the celebration without having been examined, accepted and approved by the Executive Committee according to plans, designs, etc., supplied by such Committee or accepted by them.

The allegorical cars, historical personages and marching groups will be exclusively under the control of the Executive Committee throughout the whole celebration as regards the turning out, their participation in the procession, parades, etc.

Several of such cars, historical personages and marching groups may be supplied and fitted out, under the control of the Executive Committee, by the societies that will organize them, either at

their own expense or with the help of an allowance in money to be given them by the Executive Committee.

The whole might conclude with a splendid allegory inspired by Mr Taché's superb design (Champlain Monument) representing Canada in the shape of a woman, young and handsome, but also strong and energetic, proclaiming her faith in God and her firm confidence in a brilliant future.

It will be observed that the crews of Columbus, Cartier and Champlain, the staffs of the governors and the commanders-in-chief, the officers and soldiers of the French and English regiments and of the Canadian militia of d'Iberville, Robineau, Becancour and others, and a detachment of Indian allies, would make splendid marching groups which would greatly add to the brilliancy of the grand national procession.

These various bodies, with their uniforms, arms etc., might be formed from our volunteer regiments which would willingly agree to perform the roles for which they are fitted through their discipline and *esprit de corps*.

I hand over this work to the Committee on History and Archæology for the earnest consideration of the projects it contains, with the request that they will adopt a conclusion as soon as possible.

H.-J.-J.-B. CHOUINARD.